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Minutes, June, 2005

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for June 6, 2005

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, and Ted Packard. Others present were Bobby Mac, Pete Howard, Parris Kellerman, and Joey Glushko.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35.

1. Introductions: sharing local conversations about bicycling. Jack told us about his teaching a beginning bicycle class. Joey told us about her course in bicycle repair at Quad Cycles. Joey also asked us to look at the cleaned-up Spy Pond Path.

2. Feedback on recent events. Jack told us that several hundred people attended the MassBike Party at Redbone's. He thought it a reasonable turnout considering the weather. Joey told us about the Spy Pond Trail cleanup last weekend. A lot was accomplished but much remains to be done. There will be another cleanup next year date to be announced. Ron reported on the Wellness Fair held at Town Hall last weekend. Ted reported on the bike rodeo he ran at the Bracket School. He told us that it was similar to what he and Christopher did last year at the Alternative Transportation. A small but enthusiastic crowd attended the rodeo.

3. Discussion of rest room locations for new bikeway sign/map in Arlington Center. We looked at a mockup of the proposed bikeway map that will be posted at the ends of the Bike Path in Arlington Center and discussed the possible restroom stops. We decided to note on the sign that local businesses have restrooms for patrons. We also discussed the possibility of installing public toilets somewhere in the Center. Jack suggested that a better location might be on the playing fields near Alewife.

Stephan suggested enlarging the central area of the map to emphasize the route from one end of the Path to the other. Ron thought that we should make it clear that the route outlined on the map is on the sidewalk and bikes must be walked.

4. Discussion of Vision 2020 survey results on questions related to bicycling to school and other bike-related comments. The answers to the questionnaire established that most of the adults that filled out the questionnaire were able to ride to school as children and most thought that it is important to give families the choice of having their children ride to school. Joey suggested that we emphasize these results in our Town Day booth(s).

5. Possible CMAQ/MAPC funding for community bike racks and other facilities. MAPC is looking to get some funding from CMAQ for bicycle enhancements, such as parking or signs. There might be a future possibility of enhanced, attended parking at the Alewife Station. Ron pointed out that there is no process for approval if some merchant wants to put in a bike rack.

ACTION ITEM: Jack and Joey will try and come up with a process for bike rack approval and present it at a future ABAC meeting.

6. Review/update action items from prior meetings, plus upcoming meetings and events. Jack reminded us that the next ABAC meeting is not until the second Monday in July (July 11). We again discussed our thoughts about the Arlington Center crossing in the context of the redesign. The planning department suggests that we present our thoughts through the TAC rather than directly to the DPW. VHB has just started outlining the project proposal.

7. Open forum. Christopher asked about the status of the rebuilding of the Bow St. ramp. Joey informed us that the developer who was going to do the work is possibly pulling out and selling the nearby land so the status of the ramp rebuild is in limbo.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28.

